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Corn and Soybean Production Up From Last Year

Maryland: Although there were a few scattered reports of damage to grain crops caused by Hurricane Isabel, the overall impact of the storm on corn and soybeans yields appears to be minimal. Expected yields are down slightly for corn but up slightly for soybeans, from those reported in September. The most significant impact on this year's crop seems to be the difficulty in getting the crop established earlier in the season. Acreage for both soybeans and corn has been revised down from earlier projections based on the most recent data.

Corn for grain yield is currently estimated at 131 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from the September estimate. This compares with a yield of 76 bushels per acre in 2002 and a five-year average of 114 bushels per acre. Land planted to corn is now estimated at 480,000 acres. With 400,000 acres expected to be harvested for grain, this will result in a total production of 52.4 million bushels of corn. This compares favorably with last year's production of 32.3 million bushels and a five-year average of 45.6 million bushels. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending September 29, 2003, 20 percent of the corn crop has been harvested. Corn condition was rated 14 percent excellent, 36 percent good, 23 percent fair, 17 percent poor and 10 percent very poor.

The **soybean** yield is forecast at 36 bushels per acre, up 3 bushels from the September estimate. This compares with 2002's final estimate of 23 bushels per acre, and the five-year average of 34 bushels per acre. Land planted to soybeans is now estimated at 430,000 acres, with 420,000 acres expected to be harvested. This will result in a final production of 15.1 million bushels for the year, exceeding the 10.8 million bushels harvested in 2002 but less than the five-year average of 16.5 million bushels. From the Weekly Crop and Weather Report for the week ending September 29, 2003, soybean condition was rated 18 percent excellent, 32 percent good, and 25 percent fair, 18 percent poor, and 7 percent very poor.

Tobacco production remains unchanged from the September estimate of 2.1 million pounds with a yield of 1,400 pounds per acre. According to the Weekly Crop and Weather Report released on September 29, 2003, 80 percent of the tobacco has been harvested.

United States: **Corn** production is forecast at 10.2 billion bushels, up 3 percent from last month and 13 percent above 2002. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 142.2 bushels per acre, up 3.7 bushels from September and up 12.2 bushels from last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest ever. Both records were set in 1994 when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and the yield was 138.6 bushels per acre. Yields turned out to be higher than expected across much of the Corn Belt and central Great Plains as farmers began to harvest their crops. Acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 71.8 million acres of corn for grain, down 50,000 acres from September but up 4 percent from 2002.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.47 billion bushels, down 7 percent from the September forecast and 10 percent below 2002. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1996. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 34.0 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from September and down 4.0 bushels from 2002. Acreage updates were made in several States and now area planted is estimated at 73.6 million acres, down 68,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 72.5 million acres, down 88,000 acres from September, but up fractionally from the 2002 acreage.

ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION 2002 AND 2003

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production	
		2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
Maryland		<i>1,000 Acres</i>						<i>1,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	510	480 ²	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	425	400 ²	76	131 ²	32,300	52,400 ²
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	80	----	12	----	960	----
Soybeans	BU	490	430 ²	470	420 ²	23	36 ²	10,810	15,120 ²
Sorghum ¹	BU	5	6	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	4	4	47	----	188	----
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	1	---	11	----	11	----
Winter Wheat	BU	195	165	180	145	66	37	11,880	5,365
Barley	BU	45	45	41	38	82	57	3,362	2,166
All Hay	TON	----	----	220	215	2.3	----	508	----
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	60	50	2.6	----	156	----
Other Hay	TON	----	----	160	165	2.2	----	352	----
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	1.7	1.5	1,400	1,400	2,380	2,100
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	32,000	37,000
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.6	250	240	1,175	1,104
United States								<i>1,000,000</i>	
Corn ¹	ACR	79,054	79,066	----	----	----	----	----	----
Corn Grain	BU	----	----	69,313	71,765	130	142	9,008	10,207
Corn Silage	TON	----	----	7,490	----	14	----	105	----
Soybeans	BU	73,923	73,585	72,437	72,538	38	34	2,749	2,468
Sorghum ¹	BU	9,580	9,509	----	----	----	----	----	----
Sorghum Grain	BU	----	----	7,299	7,851	50.7	51.0	370	401
Sorghum Silage	TON	----	----	352	----	9.5	----	3	----
Wheat, Winter	BU	41,845	44,945	29,751	36,541	39	47	1,146	1,707
Barley	BU	5,071	5,299	4,129	4,688	55	59	227	276
All Hay	TON	----	----	64,497	64,379	2.34	2.50	151	161
Alfalfa Hay	TON	----	----	23,135	23,541	3.19	3.34	74	79
Other Hay	TON	----	----	41,362	40,838	1.86	2.01	77	82
Tobacco	LBS	----	----	428.7	413.0	2,055	2,044	881	844
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	8,556	9,351
Potatoes,Summer	CWT	62.2	64.6	59.1	60.5	304	320	18	19

¹ Acres planted is for all purposes.

² Revised Oct 2003.